

## Reflexives: -self vs. *zi4/zi4ji3*

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Corpus used: English – Chinese Parallel Concordancer (E-C Concord)  
E-C Concord Website: <http://corpus.eduhk.hk/paraconc/>

Reflexives (-self) are frequently used in English. There are many interesting ways that one can use them, for example:

- (1) She said to **herself**
- (2) She thought to **herself**

You can say something to yourself, and you can say something to someone else.  
You can think to yourself, but you cannot think to someone else.

- (3) She kept **fanning herself**.
- (4) He **measured himself**.
- (5) They **saved themselves**.

The reflexive words in Examples 3, 4 and 5 are genuine objects, and they are not movable, otherwise the meaning will change: She kept fanning **herself** ≠ She **herself** kept fanning.

- (6) She must **have a prize herself**
- (7) She **herself** had no idea

The reflexive words in Examples 6 and 7 are used to intensify the subjects, and they are movable: She must have a prize **herself** = She **herself** must have a prize.

The Chinese equivalent to -self is *自* or *自己* (*自* is a shortened form of *自己*).

<b>Study the following examples carefully, and see how the English reflexives are translated into Chinese. Try to find out rules underlining the translation.</b>	仔細分析以下例子，看看英文中的反身代詞是如何被翻譯成中文的。找出翻譯規則。
1. she <b>said to <u>herself</u></b> as she ran	她一邊跑一邊自言自語 3sg while run while <b><u>self say self say</u></b>
2. <b>said anxiously to <u>herself</u></b>	焦急地對自己說道 anxiously <b>towards <u>self say say</u></b>
3. <b>muttering to <u>himself</u></b> as he came	邊走邊自言自語 <i>bian1 zou3 bian1 <u>zi4 yan2 zi4 yu3</u></i> while walk while <b><u>self say self say</u></b>
4. she heard it <b>muttering to <u>itself</u></b>	她聽見它喃喃自語 3sg hear 3sg (sound) <b><u>self say</u></b>
5. she <b>thought to <u>herself</u></b>	她暗自想 3sg dark <b><u>self think</u></b>

6. she went on <b>planning to herself</b>	接下來 她 盤算著 next 3sg <b>plan</b>
7. You ought to be <b>ashamed of yourself</b>	你 應當 感到 羞愧 you ought to <b>feel ashamed</b>
8. she kept <b>fanning herself</b>	她 不斷地 扇著 she not stop <b>fan</b>
9. children that were of the <b>same age as herself</b>	與 她 同齡的 小孩 with 3sg <b>same age</b> children
10. always ready to <b>make herself useful</b>	生性 樂於 助人 born character <b>like help others</b>
11. <b>Explain yourself</b>	把 話 講 清楚 <b>BA word say clear</b>
12. she <b>drew herself up</b>	她 挺直 身子 3sg <b>straighten body</b>
13. <b>shook itself</b>	抖動 一下 身子 <b>shake once body</b>
14. write a <b>self-criticism</b>	寫 檢討 write <b>examination discussion</b>
15. He was <b>sunning himself</b>	他在 曬 太陽 he -ing <b>bask sun</b>
16. Don't wear <b>yourself out</b>	也 別 累著 and not <b>exhaust</b>
17. with only <b>death itself</b> setting a limit	只有 死亡 才是一個 界限 only <b>death</b> be a limit
18. My cold had <b>cured itself</b>	我的 感冒 不治自愈 My cold <b>not treat self cure</b>
19. I'm <b>supporting myself</b> now as a farm-hand	我 現在 是 自食其力的 勞動者 I now be <b>self eat his labour</b> worker

Question: How many times was '-self' translated into '自' or '自己'? What advice can we give to our students regarding the use of '-self' in English?

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Quiz:

Please choose the more appropriate Chinese translation of the following English sentences:

O: Mrs. Bennet deigned not to make any reply; but unable to contain **herself**, began scolding one of her daughters.

- 班納特太太沒有理睬他，可是忍不住自己的气，便罵起女儿來。
- 班納特太太沒有理睬他，可是忍不住气，便罵起女儿來。

O: Titty was thinking of the island **itself**, of coral, treasure and footprints in the sand..

- 悌悌想著小島上自己的每個細節 -- 珊瑚、寶藏和沙灘上的足印。
- 悌悌想著小島上的每個細節 -- 珊瑚、寶藏和沙灘上的足印。